

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2429

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017

Revival of Closed Tea Gardens

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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of closed tea gardens in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the tea producers have suffered great losses due to closure of tea gardens in Darjeeling and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for closing the tea gardens;
- (c) whether the decrease in tea production is likely to affect domestic market and exports and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes any scheme to provide subsidy or incentive to the tea producers to avoid loss and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has chalked out any programme to revive the closed tea gardens in the country including those in Darjeeling and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a): There are twelve tea gardens closed in the country at present. The details are given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c) :Only one tea garden (Panighata) is closed in the Darjeeling district because of labour unrest due to non-payment of workers dues. Recent suspension of operations in the tea gardens in Darjeeling hills due to strike since 09.06.2017 onwards has resulted in loss of revenue due to stoppage of manufacture and sale of the high quality second flush teas that generate substantial export revenue.

(d)&(e): Tea Board through the "Tea Development & Promotion Scheme" extends financial assistance to the tea estates in the country including Darjeeling for undertaking activities which inter-alia includes new planting, replanting, rejuvenation, pruning, irrigation, field mechanization etc. The Central Government is in active coordination with the concerned State Government to make the tea gardens functional.

ANNEXURE

State wise details of closed tea gardens in the country

Sl. No. Name of the T.E State Date of Closure Current status

1 Dheklapara
T.E

West
Bengal 11.03.2006 The estate was officially liquidated by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court. The garden was put up for e-auction by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court (Official Liquidator) on 11th May,2012, but no prospect buyer was available
2 Bundapani T.E

13.07.2013 The State Govt. has taken possession of the land of the closed Bundapani T.E on 15th Oct,2014, on expiry of lease of land.
3 Dharanipur T.E

19.10.2013 The State Govt. has taken possession of the land of the closed Dharanipur T.E on 18th Nov, 2014.
4 Redbank T.E
19.10.2013 The State Govt. has taken possession of the land of the closed Redbank T.E on 21st Nov,2014, on expiry of lease of land.
5 Surendranagar T.E
19.10.2013 The State Government has cancelled the Land Lease of Surendra Nagar T.E by an order dated 14/11/2014 and the Land has been taken over by the state Government on 13.01.2015
6 Madhu T.E
23.09.2014 As per an official information , the process of sale of the property is under process
7. Panighata
10.10.2015 Labour unrest due to non-payment of workers dues etc.
8 Manabari 21.03.2016 Labour unrest due to non-payment of workers dues etc.
9. Kumlai 15-11-2015 Labour unrest due to non settlement of labour dues etc.

10. M/s Peermade Tea Co. Ltd.-Peermade&Lonetree T.E.

Kerala

01.04.2016 Labour unrest due to non settlement of labour dues etc. The Govt. of Kerala is in the process of reopening of the estate.
11. M/s MMJ Plantations-Kottamala&Bonami T.E
23.12.2013/
11.10.2014 The company has got a stay order from the Kerala High Court prohibiting action against the company presently under Tea Act.
12 Bonaccord 05.03.2015 Estate Management has abandoned the estate due to financial crisis. The name of this garden is included in the list since recently a communication has been received from the Govt. of Kerala.
Total 12 closed tea gardens
